

Message Text

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ACTION IO-03

INFO OCT-01 CIAE-00 CU-03 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 USIA-04

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NESCO

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AORG, OCON, UNESCO

SUBJECT: 95 EXBD: ITEM 5.1: EXBD APPROVES WORKING

GROUP BUDGETARY PROPOSAL

1. PLENARY BOARD SESSION OCTOBER 8 PREDICTABLY APPROVED
\$169.9 WORKING GROUP BUDGETARY PROPOSAL BY VOTE OF 31 -
3 (US, FRANCE, USSR) - 3 (FRG, BULGARIA, ITALY).

2. PERMREP INTERVENTION DURING DEBATE STRESSED PRO-
POSAL UNACCEPTABLE BECAUSE IT NOT "A REALISTIC RES-
PONSE" TO PRESENT WORLD ECONOMIC SITUATION WHICH RE-
QUIRES AUSTERITY AND US VIEW THAT UNESCO SHOULD EXERCISE
"SELF-DISCIPLINE AND MAKE REDUCTIONS" COMMENSURATE WITH
THOSE OF MANY MEMBER-STATES IN REDUCING THEIR BUDGETS.
PERMREP FURTHER CRITICIZED LACK OF REVERSAL IN "EXPAN-
SIONST TREND" IN UNESCO BUDGET AND, INTER ALIA,
ABSENCE AS YET OF COST-EVALUATION MECHANISM IN UNESCO
PROGRAM MANAGEMENT.

3. SOVIETS REPRESENTED ONLY BY MOST JUNIOR-RANKING
PERMDEL MEMBER AND DID NOT MAKE INTERVENTION IN DEBATE.
BRIEF EXPLANATION OF VOTE CITED OBJECTIONS TO ADMIN-

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ISTRATIVE WASTE BUT ASSERTED SOVIET COMMIT-

MENT TO IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAM IN LDC'S.

4. BUDGET PROPOSAL GOING FORWARD TO GENERAL CONFERENCE. ALTHOUGH LDC'S ON BOARD VOTED IN FAVOR MANY (ETHIOPIA, SENEGAL, KENYA) EXPRESSED RESERVATIONS THEIR GOVERNMENTS RE CUT IN GROWTH RATE FROM 5.9 PERCENT TO 3 PERCENT AND TOTAL CUTBACKS IN EXCESS OF \$4 MILLION. GENERAL CONFERENCE BUDGETARY BATTLE MAY THEREFORE BECOME FOCUSED NOT ON REDUCING \$169.9 MILLION BUT PRESERVING THIS CEILING FROM INCREASE TO ORIGINAL 18 C/5 BUDGET WHICH NOW RECOSTED TO \$173.5 MILLION.

5. IN DEBATE ONLY OTHER DEL. TO CONTEST BUDGET WAS FRG WHICH ULTIMATELY ABSTAINED. NOTEWORTHY UK MADE STRONG STATEMENT SUPPORTING BUDGET AND OPENLY CRITICIZED THOSE NATIONS WHO WOULD NOT SUPPORT FIGURE BY CLAIMING "DOMESTIC AUSTERITY" OR WHO CONTINUED TO PRESS FOR CUTS IN ADMINISTRATIVE COST. JAPAN POINTED OUT THEIR ASSESSMENT WOULD INCREASE BY 105 PER CENT, BUT IN SPITE OF THIS THEY SUPPORTED BUDGET. HOLLAND ALSO SPOKE IN FAVOR OF BUDGET.

6. COMMENT: GENEVA GROUP CANNOT BE COUNTED ON TO SUPPORT REDUCED BUDGET AND, INDEED, UK STATEMENT COULD BE SAID TO HAVE BEEN OPENLY CRITICAL OF US. VERY LIKELY THAT AT GEN. CONF. FRANCE WILL RETREAT TO ABSTENTION. SOVIETS WILL ALSO LIKELY ABSTAIN AND MADE EVERY EFFORT TO DOWNPLAY THEIR NEGATIVE VOTE AT EXBD. IRWIN

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